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29 NOV 1959

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 Dr. Edward M. Anson
 Executive Director
 Iowa College Foundation
 Des Moines 9, Iowa

Dear Dr. Anson:

Many thanks for your letter of November 11 and its interesting suggestion about improving the comparative presentation of the Communist and American systems in liberal arts colleges.

I am afraid that I cannot be of direct assistance to you in either fund raising or locating appropriate faculty members for such a program.

I would suggest that your ideas might get a sympathetic reception if presented to one or more of the following:

Mr. Bryce Wood, Social Science Research Council
 in New York

Mr. Frederick Burkhardt, American Council of Learned Societies in New York

Professor Max Millikan, Center for International Studies, M.I.T., Cambridge, Massachusetts

With all good wishes,

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Allen W. Dulles
 Director

Distribution:
 Orig.--Addressee
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 (28 November 1959)

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Executive Registry
11 - 9095

IOWA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

407 SHOPS BUILDING
DES MOINES 9, IOWA

DR. EDWARD M. ANSON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 11, 1959

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Dulles:

For sometime now I have been most interested in having Russian Communism taught in our American private liberal arts colleges. My reasoning is not as much concerned with knowing our enemy as it is with having a solid basis from which our college students may measure and appreciate our own system.

Most of our current textbooks and teaching tell what is good and bad about our system, but allow no comparison of systems. Courses in comparative economic systems only compare economic theories. As we both know, human dignity and individual liberties as well as many other factors must also be brought into the discussion. The instructor for such a course must have an understanding of many fields; economics, sociology, psychology, history, etc., and above all must know and appreciate our own form of government.

STAT

I have arrived at the point where I believe I may have two or three colleges who might be willing to try an experiment in this area. Also, I believe it possible to raise the funds needed for salaries during this initial experiment. The locating of faculty would be the most difficult part of the plan, however, I hope your office might assist in this area.

Page 2.

Mr. Allen W. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
November 11, 1959

I have been invited by the Iowa Manufacturers Association to attend the N. A. M., 64th Annual Congress of American Industry and would be most appreciative if I could have a short appointment to discuss this with you at that time. I do not wish to carry this idea one step further if, in your opinion, it might introduce a new factor or condition which might work against the best interests of the United States.

If it is not feasible to see you while you are in New York, I am most willing to come to Washington at your convenience.

Very truly yours,

Allen W. Dulles

EMA/lw

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19 November 1959

Suggested basis of reply to letter to DCI from Dr. Edward M. Anson:

Dr. Anson's general idea seems a meritorious one, and worth discussing with experienced educators. Without much doubt comparative presentations of the American and Communist societies would provide students with a better understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of our beliefs and institutions and of the problems involved in "peaceful coexistence." The student taking the odd course in history, economics, political science, or sociology, however important the subject for other purposes, is not likely to receive much insight into the challenge raised by our communist antagonists.

As Dr. Anson indicates, finding teachers who can offer such comparative courses will be a difficult task. There are also the problems of developing a syllabus, selecting reading materials, and relating the course to the rest of the college curriculum.

Dr. Anson could be advised to discuss his idea as well as matters of faculty and course organization with the following:

Mr. Bryce Wood, Social Science Research Council, New York. The Council and the American Council of Learned Societies cooperate in the Joint Committee on Slavic Studies.

Mr. Frederick Burkhardt, American Council of Learned Societies, New York.

Professor Max Millikan or Professor Walter Rostow, Center for International Studies, M.I.T., Cambridge, Massachusetts. Both have been interested in comparative presentations of US and Soviet societies.

Professor Merle Fainsod, Chairman, Russian Research Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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Professor Merle Fainsod, Chairman, Russian Research Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		
19 Nov 59 (Date)		
TO: Mr. Robert Amory, Jr.		
BUILDING Admin	ROOM NO. 354	
REMARKS: The attached is suggested as the basis of a reply to the letter to the DCI from Dr. Edward M. Anson. In view of the vagueness of the writer's concept and some of the language in the letter it might be advisable for the Director to be cautious in his endorsement until the nature and the sponsorship of such courses become clearer.		
[Redacted]		
FROM: C/SRS/DDI		CONFIDENTIAL
BUILDING 2210 E St	ROOM NO. 304	EXTENSION [Redacted]

FORM NO. 36-8
SEP 1946

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	APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
	COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
	CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

The Director asked that someone study this and give him their recommendations. I thought possibly [redacted] might have some ideas on the subject.

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SUSPENSE - 20 November 1959

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.		DATE
Asst to the Director		11/16/59
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FORM NO. 237 Replaces Form 30-4
1 APR 55 which may be used.

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